

ABAC Meeting Minutes for November 5, 2007

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Christopher Tonkin, and Scott Smith. Joey Glushko, Pete Howard, Phil Goff, Doug Greenfield, and Jeff Roth were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30

*The October minutes were adopted with minor corrections.

Issue of bicycling on sidewalks in Arlington Center. There is a problem with cyclists riding on the sidewalk in front of the Cambridge Savings Bank. The bank has complained so we would like to devise and implement an alternate solution. We briefly discussed the general problem of riding on sidewalks in town. The consensus was that other than in front of the bank, sidewalk riders are mostly children. We were unable to come up with a simple easily implemented solution. This led to a discussion about alternative paths through the Center. We came up with a number of possible alternatives that must wait for the redesign of the roadway.

Update on bike-rack installations in Arlington and discussion of future bike-rack sites. The first wave of the new racks has been installed and are being used. Phil does not like the design of the new racks in front of town hall. It is difficult to lock both your front wheel and the frame directly to the rack. He also requested that the racks be relocated further from the wall for the same reason. Another suggestion was that some of the racks in the next wave be covered to protect bicycles from the weather. For the next wave of racks, we would prefer locations in the business districts.

Update on trial program to plow the bikeway in Arlington this winter, approved by the Selectmen in their meeting of 10/29/07. The Selectmen approved a trial plowing program this winter. The extent of the plowing will be from town line to town line. Pete asked what the funding plan will be. Jeff explained that \$2500 has been allocated and when that is exhausted the plowing will cease. Pete also suggested that a Town Meeting warrant article should be considered to make the plowing permanent. Our biggest issue is possible damage to the path and who will be responsible for possible repairs and maintenance. Jeff pointed out that plowing the path will primarily benefit pedestrians.

Update on Mass Ave corridor project. Phil told us that his informal survey revealed that many residents in East Arlington are in favor of bicycle lanes and a single vehicular lane in each direction. We were surprised but delighted.

Updates on recent events. We were informed by Jack and Phil that the Boston Bicycle Summit went very well. Phil said that the sessions he went to were very well attended. He also told us that there were many Boston city engineers and

planners in attendance. Short-term recommendations to improve bicycling in Boston include: bike lanes on appropriate streets, better connections of existing bike paths, installation of more bicycle parking, and the reestablishment of the Boston Bicycle Advisory Committee. Jack said that the current emphasis was on short-term solutions. Boston has ambitions to become a Bicycle Friendly City as defined by the League of American Bicyclists (LAB). We discussed inviting Nicole Freedman to talk at the winter social.

We also reviewed the recent tri-town bicycle meeting. It was decided that the tri-town meeting will be held three times a year. Pete asked about the status of Bicycle Friendly Arlington (as defined by LAB). Jack explained that there is a lot to be done getting people and departments in line—not to mention a lot of complicated paperwork for the formal application.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35.

*Denotes a vote was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.